

NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Lincoln, NE

August 28, 2020

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met August 28, 2020. The meeting notice was posted on the Commission website and the Nebraska.gov public meeting calendar.

Commission members present: Debby Bloom, Vernon Davis, Arun Pondicherry, Lois Todd-Meyer; via GoToWebinar: Kristin Wiebe, Julia Tye. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Sally Snyder, Jerry Breazile, Jennifer Wrampe; via GoToWebinar: Christa Porter. Debby Bloom called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. This meeting complies with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and Governor's Executive Order Limited Waiver for Public Meetings.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Lois Todd-Meyer and seconded by Vernon Davis to approve the agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Vernon Davis – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye; Kristen Wiebe - aye. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes: (July 10, 2020) a motion was made by Kristin Wiebe and seconded by Julia Tye to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Vernon Davis – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye; Kristin Wiebe - aye. Motion approved.

Chair's Report and Commissioner's Comments

Arun Pondicherry – reported most Lincoln City Libraries programs have been cancelled until further notice. Lincoln libraries are still providing virtual toddler and pre-k story time three days a week. They have posted on the teen page “Corona Comics” to help teens understand the pandemic. There are temporary art installations at Bethany and Bennett Martin libraries. The One Book – One Lincoln selection committee has picked three finalists – *Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou, *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano and *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett.

Lois Todd-Meyer – no report

Vernon Davis – no report

Kristin Wiebe – reported that the Scottsbluff Public Library adult reading program will begin on August 31 with a movie at the drive-in. The program will be exclusively online. The Scottsbluff library has started to open up the maker hub. Participation at the library has been by appointment and the library is having good success at getting patrons back in. There are two staff retirements at the Scottsbluff library.

Julia Tye – reported things are going well at the Kearney Public Library. The Kearney Public Library Foundation signature event, One Author Kearney, has been postponed. Steve Fosselman, Grand Island Public Library director will be retiring at the end of September.

Debby Bloom – reported the Three Rivers Library System annual meeting was held August 7. Free webinars are being offered for basic skills. Marilyn Schuele, Cedar Rapids Public Library director, is retiring. Springfield Public Library received a \$1895 grant from Facebook for STEM resources. Bellevue University is featuring the Apollo 11 moon-landing exhibit.

Director's Report

Personnel – Rod Wagner reported the majority of Commission staff continue to work from home.

CARES Act Library Grants – Wagner commended Christa Porter, Sam Shaw, Sally Snyder and Allana Novotny for their work on the CARES Act grant program. They reviewed and made decisions on over 70 applications. Christa said that 64 libraries were funded, plus the Central Plains Library System on behalf of a regional systems statewide project – a statewide subscription to Reader Zone. Reader Zone is an online program to track reading and programs related to summer reading. Many of the libraries receiving grant funds will purchase personal protective equipment items.

Library Commission Grants and Schedule – Christa Porter reported that three grant programs will be offered – Youth Grants for Excellence, Continuing Education Grants, and Library Internship Grants. The Youth Grants application deadline is October 7. Porter is updating Internship Grants information with a November 10 deadline for applications. The Continuing Education grant applications are due August 31. Holli Duggan is working on revamping the CE grants webpage and will soon open for 2020-2021. Christa Porter, Holli Duggan and Sally Snyder will host NCompass Live on September 23 to provide information about these grants.

NCompass Live Upcoming Programs- Porter commented that recent attendance for NCompass Live sessions has increased significantly.

Library Innovation Studios Project Status – Wagner reported installation and training has begun at the Superior Public Library. JoAnn McManus is working with St. Paul and Cambridge libraries to schedule installations in the coming month. McCook public library will follow Cambridge. Bellevue and LaVista public libraries will follow later. A meeting is scheduled to discuss planning for the remainder of the project scheduled to end June 30, 2021.

Nebraska Center for the Book – Wagner reported that an NCB board committee will begin reviewing nominated books for One Book One Nebraska 2021. The Celebration of Nebraska Books event is tentatively scheduled for October 17. There is a possibility of cancelling, postponing or holding virtually. Books submitted for the NCB Book Awards competition are being reviewed and decisions on winners will be made in early September.

Financial Report

July Budget and Financial Report – Wagner noted the beginning of the state fiscal year on July 1. Some expenses, annual subscriptions and memberships for example, are paid for the full year at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The federal fiscal year ends on September 30. Appropriations for LSTA funding have not yet been determined. Congress will most likely adopt a continuing resolution to extend funding for federal agencies and programs for the coming fiscal year temporarily until appropriations are made for the full fiscal year.

Attestation Report- Wagner reported that a team of state auditors has been working with the Commission since mid-April. An exit conference was held on July 14.

New Business

2021-23 Biennium Budget Request – Wagner reported the biennium budget request is due September 15. Appropriations are made to two Commission programs – library operations and library development. A budget request increase over current fiscal year appropriations is largely based on personnel expenses (per state budget guidelines) and the Commission’s office space lease. A budget request summary document was distributed detailing the requested amounts for each program or service.

A motion was made by Vernon Davis and seconded by Arun Pondicheryy to approve the 2021-2023 biennium budget request. Motion carried on roll call vote: Debby Bloom – aye; Vernon Davis – aye; Arun Pondicherry – aye; Lois Todd-Meyer – aye; Julia Tye – aye; Kristen Wiebe - aye. Motion approved.

Next Meeting Dates – The next Commission meetings will be held November 13, 2020 and January 8, 2021.

Adjournment

Debby Bloom adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Wrampe